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The IRIS

(FLEUR DE LIS)

its beauty and uses

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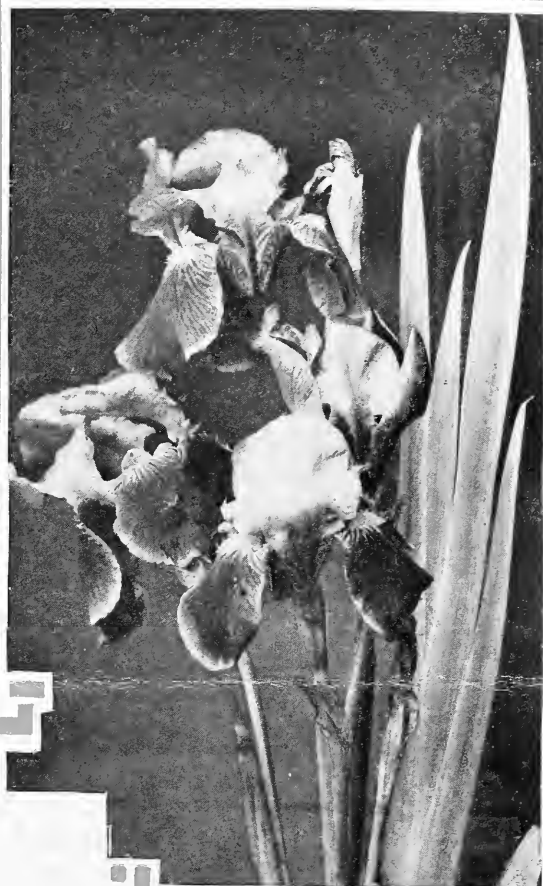
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D. N. Shoemaker.



Iris Sibirica, naturalized on margin of pond.



German Iris "Monsignor"

Plant an Iris garden this year!

HERE are occasions when those who take considerable pains and much delight in making their gardens provide a continuous and plentiful supply of color and cut flowers throughout the year, are at a loss for a particular plant at a certain time, to counteract a perceptible dullness 'tween seasons in the garden. Such a period is noticeable after the late May-flowering Tulips have passed out and before the first of our real summer flowers have commenced to make their presence felt.

During that season there are two great groups that provide a colorful garden,—the *Iris* and the *Pcony*. As we purpose writing a special little message about the latter in a later issue, we will here devote ourselves exclusively to *Irises*.

Commencing 25 or 30 years ago with a few insignificant species of *Flag* or *German Irises* that were wont to occupy some neglected or secluded corner of the garden, or as nature gave them from their wild habitats, enthusiastic hybridizers have developed a most wonderful race of exquisite forms and unrivalled beauty, the colorings and markings of which earned for them the class name of "poor man's orchid," but in recent years they have advanced to a stage whereby they may also be termed a "rich man's hobby," for the former term would be inapplicable to those rare novelties that sell today as high as \$50.00 to \$75.00 per rhizome. Varieties therefore to suit every requirement and every purse can readily be secured.

No garden is complete without its colony of these exquisite flowers. One must have a "garden with *Irises*," or a "garden of *Irises*." They are ideal for planting in groups in their separate shades throughout the hardy border—but where space permits, a garden devoted entirely to *Irises* will repay beyond belief the initial effort of such an undertaking, for when planted they will be thankful, simply to be left alone, to delight the eye with their annually increasing wealth of bloom, in shades and markings unknown in any other class of plant.

The present is a good time to decide on planting an *Iris Garden*. Long borders adjacent to walks, drives or shrubberies are splendid situations. The most wonderful effects can be produced by planting in grass in liberal and irregular masses along and about the brinks of streams and margins of ponds.

There are hundreds of estates today possessing ideal *Iris localities* with plenty of sunlight available, by rivulet or brook, where reed and scrub now thrive, that with careful remodelling and cultivation, could be transformed into the judicious and plentiful use of *Irises* into the most picturesque spots in the demesne during the months of *May* and *June*.

It is not our intention to bore our readers with directions as to how or where to plant, knowing that most of them are well versed in these matters, but the above suggestions are offered as a possible means of introducing into their gardens some of the newer and better *Herbaceous Irises* of today that are incomparable with the old varieties, daily becoming obsolete.

Due to our special love for this wonderful race of Hardy Plants, we have studied them with interest for many years, knowing that a great future was and still is in store for them—for hybridists have only commenced (by the distribution of a few remarkable novelties) to impress us with what rare and gorgeous beauties they still have to offer for somebody's June garden.

The collection of varieties that we are distributing comprises all the best moderately priced sorts in commerce today, in addition to which we are prepared to procure any other standard or rare variety in which the reader is interested and which we do not list.

We shall also be glad to suggest varieties to use for naturalizing in grass in large masses, and quote special prices in 500 and 1,000 lots.

As *Irises* can be safely transplanted after blooming, we shall commence shipping early orders in *July*, or withhold orders 'til any later date requested by customers.

Our descriptive list of *Irises* is issued in special booklet form, together with a very complete list of the finest *Peonies* in cultivation. We are now booking orders for each, for summer and fall delivery. If you haven't this list write for it today.

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JOSEPH A. MULLER

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